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S-E-C- R-E-T

COUNTRY Bulgaria

SUBJECT Visit of Soviet Leaders in Sofia

REPORT

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1. It is believed that the visit to Sofia on 4 June 1955 by Khrushchev, Bulganin and Mikoyan was unexpected as the announcement of the visit caught Chervenkov and two top ministers touring Bulgarian Provinces. The quality of the reception for the three Soviet leaders was poor.
2. Bulganin [ ] and the other two Soviet leaders planned to visit Bucharest after leaving Sofia and perhaps visit also other capitals. [ ] this may be an attempt to minimize the importance the three Soviets originally attached to their visit to Belgrade in view of the lack of a clearcut Soviet success there.
3. At the official reception, the three Soviets claimed a 100 percent success in Belgrade. Khrushchev said that the negotiations introduce a new era in the relationship between Yugoslavia on the one hand and the Soviet Bloc on the other, emphasizing Yugoslavia's independence of "the imperialists." He acknowledged the importance of an independent Socialist evolution in each country, but praised close collaboration among Communist countries and underlined the superiority of large nations over small nations.
4. Some unspecified Bulgarian officials remain suspicious of the Belgrade talks. They are uncertain whether the Macedonian question was discussed and expressed concern about the future of Anton Yugov, who is known to be anti-Tito.<sup>1</sup>
5. [ ]

Comments:

1. The Soviets mention Chankov ahead of Yugov in all speeches monitored in Sofia.

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Comment: Between 8 May and 2 June 1955, the Sofia press neither mentioned the presence of First Vice-Premier Anton Yugov nor that of First Vice-Premier Georgi Traykov at State functions which, however, were attended by Chervenkov, Chankov and other top Bulgarian government officials.

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